

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are presently active in this Application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 11-15 have been amended and new Claims 16-22 have been added without the introduction of any new matter. Note, for example, page 17, lines 17-20 and Fig 5 provide support.

The outstanding Office Action includes a rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Amano et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,996, Amano), a rejection of Claims 4, 9, and 14 as being unpatentable over Amano in view of Garcia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,258, Garcia), and a rejection of Claims 5, 10, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano in view of Nakajima (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,152).

Before considering the art rejections, it is believed that a brief review of the present invention would be helpful. In this regard, the present invention provides a printer system, image processing method, and computer-readable recording medium with program for making a computer execute the image processing method recorded thereon that all provide a printer driver that adds drawing object information for identifying the type of drawing object to print data that is output to a printer when the drawing object includes graphics, a code is added to indicate the presence or absence of area fill. The system/method/program further includes controlling selection of dither data that matches the drawing object based on the drawing object information

added to the print data and the presence or absence of the area fill code, and then performs dithering on the print data and expands the data to an image.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Amano is traversed because Amano does not reasonably teach or suggest adding information for a drawing object to identify the type of drawing object to the print data and the use of area fill information indicating the presence and absence of such area fill and the similar printer driver limitation of independent Claim 1. In this regard, these independent claims do not just recite that the type of drawing object is determined; instead, they require that information that will identify the type of drawing object must be added to the print data and that area fill information must be present for graphic data. It is this adding to the print data requirement that is not taught at col. 14, lines 30-34 relied on at the bottom of page 2 of the outstanding Action.

In Amano, the concern is first that of determining printer status, including toner problems, and changing a selected dither matrix if the toner problem dictates it. See col. 13, lines 3-col. 14, line 13. Thus, while the second embodiment taught by Amano includes analyzing a parameter of the print information to “determine whether the image to be output is a character, a graphic or a bit map image (e.g. a natural picture),” see col. 14, lines 30-36, this is still done in a process that is also concerned with matrix selection based on the toner status as in the first embodiment, see FIG. 5. Missing here is any suggestion of a reason to separate these two different analyses and to provide the claimed step of adding information for a drawing object to identify the type of drawing object to the print data, instead of the real time analysis to be performed after the status of the printer analysis as taught by Amano.

Also, there is no teaching in Amano of adding any area fill information for graphic data. Accordingly, this rejection of independent Claims 1, 6, and 11 is traversed.

As Claims 2 and 3 depend from Claim 1, Claims 7 and 8 depend from Claim 6 and Claims 12 and 13 depend from Claim 11, they each include all the limitations of their respective base claims and the rejection thereof as being as being anticipated by Amano is traversed for the same reasons that this rejection was traversed as to that corresponding base claim.

In addition, this anticipation rejection of Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, and 13 is traversed because each of these dependent claims add further features to their respective independent parent claim that is not taught or suggested by Amano.

Moreover, as neither Garcia nor Nakajima cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Amano, and as Claims 4 and 5 depend from and include the limitations of Claim 1, Claims 9 and 10 depend from depend from and include the limitations of Claim 6 and Claims 14 and 15 depend from depend from and include the limitations of Claim 11, the obviousness rejections over Amano in view of Garcia or Nakajima are also clearly without merit and should also be withdrawn.

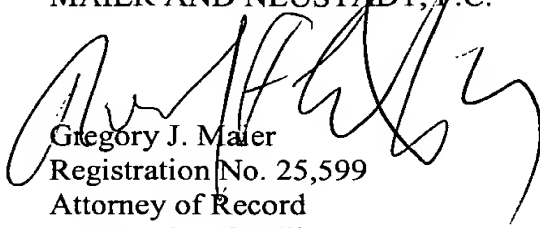
Furthermore, these obviousness rejections applied to Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, and 15 are traversed because each of these dependent claims add further features to their respective independent parent claim that is not taught or suggested by Amano and/or Garcia and/or Nakajima considered alone or together in any proper combination.

New Claims 16-22 are further believed to define over any of Amano and/or Garcia and/or Nakajima considered alone or together in any proper combination for the reasons set forth above.

Consequently, in light of the lack of any outstanding issues to be resolved, it is respectfully urged that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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